

REMARKS

In the above-identified office action, claims 1-3, 5-9 and 13-17 have been indicated as allowed.

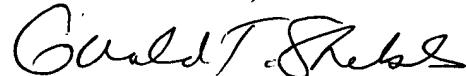
Claims 10-12 have been rejected as unpatentable over JP09247775. Applicant has cancelled these claims.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance and Applicant earnestly solicits an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.



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